

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1005

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jimmy Fortune for his contributions to the world of popular music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, one such legendary musical artist is Nashvillian Jimmy Fortune, who devoted twenty-one illustrious years to touring, singing, and performing with the Statler Brothers; and

WHEREAS, often called the greatest tenor voice in country music, Mr. Fortune has launched a prolific solo career, releasing three CDs and touring with his band throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating tremendous energy and a desire to sing new material, Jimmy Fortune released his first solo CD *When One Door Closes* in August of 2003, a Gospel CD *I Believe* in June of 2005, and *Feels Like Christmas* in December of 2006; he is now working assiduously to write new songs for his next project; and

WHEREAS, already inducted into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame on October 29, 2007, Mr. Fortune and the venerable Statler Brothers will be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in June of 2008; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Fortune joined the Statler Brothers as a temporary singer after Lew DeWitt heard him singing at a ski resort; and

WHEREAS, following an audition in Nashville, Mr. Fortune first performed with the Statler Brothers on January 28, 1982 in Savanna, Georgia; he was hired as a permanent replacement in August of 1982; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Fortune's talents as a singer and songwriter contributed significantly to the success of the Statler Brothers; and

WHEREAS, he wrote the group's second number one hit *Elizabeth* on the 1983 album *Today*, and then followed that with two more number one hits, *My Only Love* from 1984's *Atlanta Blue* and *Too Much on My Heart* from 1985's *Pardners in Rhyme*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fortune also wrote the widely popular, *Forever*, from 1986's *Four for the Show* and co-wrote their last major hit, the number-six-charting *More Than a Name on the Wall* from 1988's *The Greatest Hits*; and

WHEREAS, a performer of the highest order, Jimmy Fortune has showcased his talents throughout the United States, in Canadian provinces, and in front of audiences as large as 100,000 people; he twice performed at the White House, for President Ronald Reagan and President George Bush, and presented a special gift to actress Elizabeth Taylor by singing his song, *Elizabeth*, to her at a birthday celebration; and

WHEREAS, drawing large crowds of faithful fans, Mr. Fortune participated in the annual "hometown" celebration in Staunton, Virginia for fourteen exemplary years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to lending his incredible voice to many of the Statler Brothers' gold, platinum, and double platinum recordings, Mr. Fortune's professional accomplishments also include his work on the Nashville Network's program *The Statler Brothers Show*, which debuted in 1991, was the highest rated show for the Nashville Network and ran for seven seasons; and

WHEREAS, upon the retirement of the other three members of the Statler Brothers on October 26, 2002, Jimmy Fortune seized the opportunity to venture out on his own in the music business; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to join in celebrating the numerous contributions and significant accomplishments of Jimmy Fortune, who, through his personal excellence and musical talents, has brought happiness to his countless fans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Jimmy Fortune of the legendary Statler Brothers upon his stellar career and for playing a significant role in the growth of the country music industry and entertaining his many devoted fans, as we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.